

DECEMBER 2006

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WINTER WALKING

GET YOUR EXERCISE INDOORS

THE WINTER WALKING CLUB WILL MEET **Tuesday mornings in February** at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S., and travel to a variety of Twin Cities' malls and skyways for indoor walks. The group will board the bus at 8:30 a.m. and return at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided following the last walk on February 27. Cost is \$34. For more information, call 952-563-4949.



AWARD-WINNING PUBLICATIONS

CITY EARNS NATIONAL HONORS

BLOOMINGTON WAS RECENTLY HONORED with two awards in a national communications' competition. The City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) presented its prestigious awards to the City in October. The City's internal newsletter, the *Insider*, captured first-place in the category of internal newsletters, beating out Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and Lenexa, Kansas. The *2005 Corporate Report to the Community* won a third place award in the category of annual reports.

ENERGY FAIR

TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

LEARN HOW TO LOWER UTILITY BILLS and make your home more efficient at the Bloomington Energy Fair, **Saturday, February 3, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Get the latest on energy-saving light bulbs, energy audits, programmable thermostats, high-efficiency furnaces, project financing, tax incentives and preparing your home for winter. For more information, call Bryan Hartman at 952-563-8943, or e-mail bhartman@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

A ROOM WITH A VIEW

BLOOMINGTON PARKS ARE BEAUTIFUL YEAR-ROUND

RESIDENT FAYE ROY, WHO WORKS FOR LEE PRODUCTS Company in Bloomington, took this beautiful snapshot of Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South.

"I am not a photographer. I just love the view out of our window here at work," Roy said modestly. "I took photographs of the same view in all four seasons and winter was my favorite."

An incredible one-third of Bloomington is dedicated to parks and open spaces. This beauty is part of what makes our community a desirable place to live, work and play. As Bloomington developed from a rural to urban community, the City began to create public parks and open spaces. The goal was to have a playlot, playground or park within walking distance of all residents. Today, almost 9,000 acres in Bloomington are parks and open spaces, of which almost 4,000 acres are City-owned. This past fall, Bloomington celebrated the opening of three more parks. *See page 6.*



WHAT'S NEW IN BLOOMINGTON

REDEVELOPMENT AT FRANCE AVENUE AND OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD

THE INTERSECTION OF FRANCE AVENUE AND OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD HAS UNDERGONE A POSITIVE transformation over the last few years. The Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) assembled parcels to encourage private redevelopment that included the construction of a 4,000 square-foot retail building on the southeast quadrant of the intersection. A retail and office development is also underway on the northeast quadrant. *See below.*

Public improvements, including street widening, new turn lanes, sidewalks, signals, medians and landscaping, have also enhanced the area. Currently, private developers are working on a development plan for the southwest corner. For more information, call HRA Administrator Regina Harris at 952-563-8940.



A green space is located on the northwest corner.



THE POINT

A retail and office development is nearing completion at the northeast corner of France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road. The Point consists of an 18,000 square-foot building that faces France Avenue and an 8,000 square-foot building fronting Old Shakopee Road. *See right.* One of the tenants scheduled for the building is a Chipotle restaurant.

"The addition of a restaurant with outdoor seating, along with other retail, will add appeal and life to the intersection of France and Old Shakopee Road," HRA Administrator Regina Harris said.

Completion is scheduled this winter.



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